### STATE OF GEORGIA TIER 2 TMDL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REVISION 1

Sweetwater Creek Flint River Basin Macon County Sumter County City of Andersonville

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans are platforms for evaluating and tracking water quality protection and restoration. These plans have been designed to accommodate continual updates and revisions as new conditions and information warrant. In addition, field verification of watershed characteristics and listing data has been built into the preparation of the plans. The overall goal of the plans is to define a set of actions that will help achieve water quality standards in the state of Georgia.

This implementation plan addresses the general characteristics of the watershed, the sources of pollution, stakeholders and public involvement, and education/outreach activities. In addition, the plan describes regulatory and voluntary practices/control actions (*management measures*) to reduce pollutants, milestone schedules to show the development of the management measures (*measurable milestones*), and a monitoring plan to determine the efficiency of the management measures.

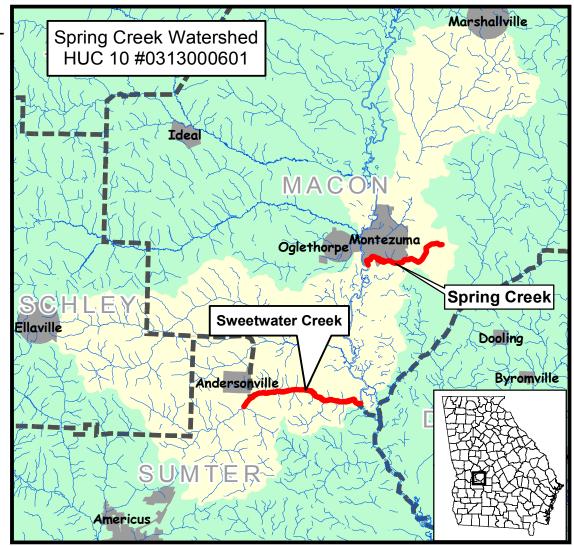


Table 1. IMPAIRMENTS

IMPAIRED STREAM SEGMENT	IMPAIRED SEGMENT LOCATION	IMPAIRMENT	
Spring Creek	Macon County	Biota (sediment)	
Sweetwater Creek	Headwaters to Flint River, Andersonville	Biota (sediment)	
Sweetwater Creek *	Headwaters to Flint River, Andersonville	рН	

<sup>\*</sup> Plan will be written by GA EPD

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#### II. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE WATERSHED

Write a narrative describing the watershed, HUC 10# 0313000601. Include an updated overview of watershed characteristics. Identify new conditions and verify or correct information in the TMDL document using the most current data. Include the size and location of the watershed, political jurisdictions, and physical features which could influence water quality. Describe the source and date of the latest land cover/use for the watershed. Describe and quantify major land uses and activities which could influence water quality. See the instructions for more information on what to include.

The referenced HUC covers approximately 115,000 acres<sup>1</sup>, the vast majority of which is in agriculture or forest. Located in three counties, it extends in a northeasterly direction from its southernmost point near Americus (Sumter) to Ellaville (Schley), serves as the drainage basin for the Cities of Andersonville (Sumter) and Montezuma (Macon), and into the southern corporate limits of Marshallville (Macon). The limited development which has occurred over the past ten years is primarily rural (single-family) housing, with some poultry housing added to the previously existing inventory. The 2000 Census credited the City of Andersonville with a resident population of 330; Montezuma 4,000. Major developments include a housing subdivision on the northern extremity of the City of Montezuma, and a middle school and one housing complex in the southern half of the city.

The impaired segment of Sweetwater Creek is in sub-basin HUC 031300060106 (refer to color map on next page), a watershed of approximately 26,000 acres<sup>2</sup> located in the southern portion of the larger basin. This sub-basin (is the subject of the balance of this document, and) extends from the eastern extremity of Schley County, across the panhandle of Sumter County through the City of Andersonville into Macon County. The impaired segment between Andersonville and the Flint River comprises the jurisdictional boundary between Sumter and Macon Counties. The area south of this county line is among the least fertile in Sumter county. (The color photo on page 4 highlights the impaired segment only, not the entire subbasin.) Land use distribution in this basin is as follows:

Sweetwater Creek Land Use Distribution						
Forest Row Crop Agriculture Pasture/Hay Residential/Developed Other*						
58% 17% 9% <1% 15%						

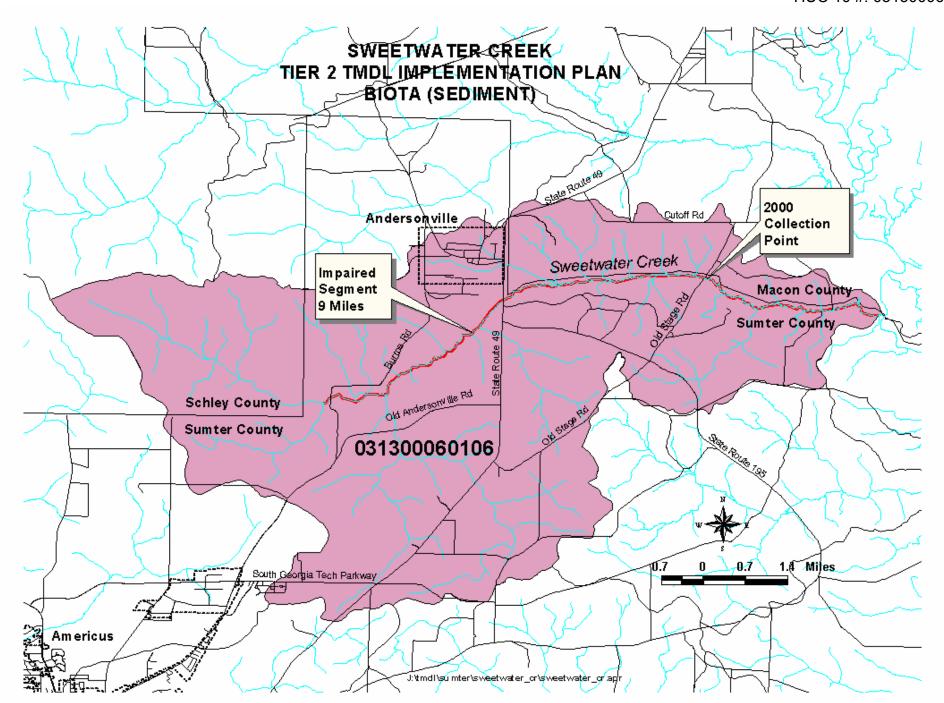
<sup>\*</sup> water, strip mine, transitional and wetlands

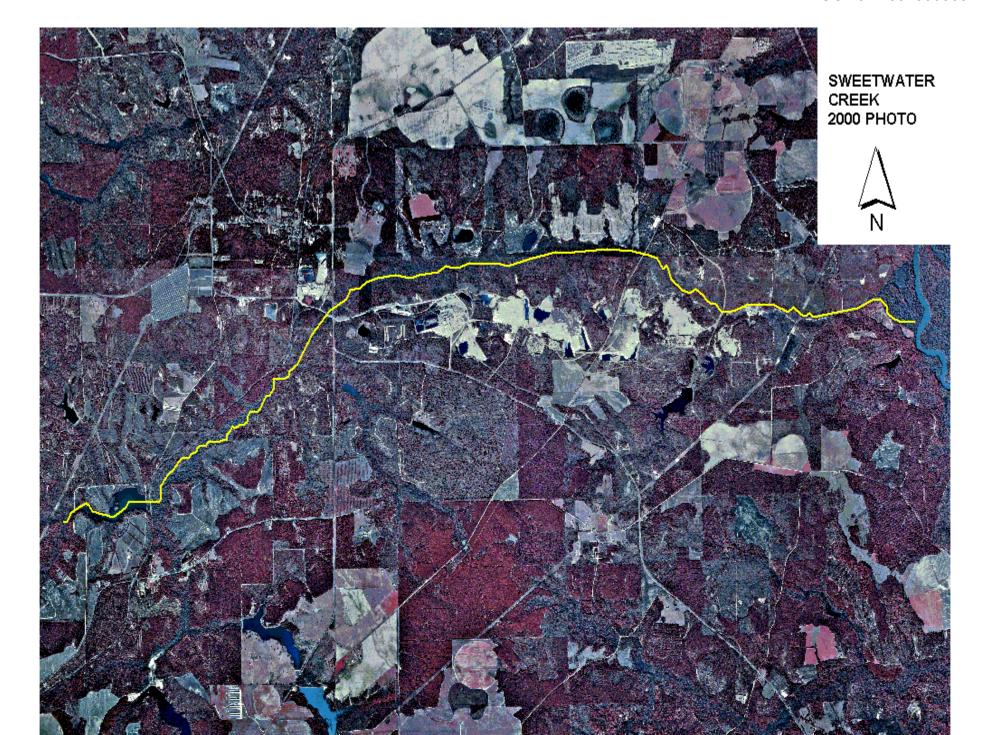
Source: Total Maximum Daily Load Evaluation for Twenty-eight Stream Segments in the Flint River Basin For Sediment (Biota Impacted), January 2003; Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Protection Division

According to the cited source, this land use distribution data is from Landsat Thematic Mapper digital images developed in 1995. More recent, detailed land use data has not been generated. Any current day acreage distribution differences from those presented in the accompanying table are insignificant. Development in this basin over the past ten years has been negligible. Some construction has taken place on the very southern extremity of the basin on the campus of South Georgia Technical College. The National Prisoner of War Museum on the Andersonville National

Georgia Department of Natural Resources-EPD

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Georgia Department of Natural Resources-EPD





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Historic Site underwent a major renovation (new construction). Otherwise, development has essentially consisted of sparse, single-family housing development.

The only watershed planning or assessment activity known to be occurring is the Flint River Basin Management Plan performed under direction of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources-Environmental Protection Division every five years, and currently scheduled for 2005. No other water quality management or sampling programs are known to be in effect or planned. There are not any Phase 1 or Phase 2 stormwater treatment regulated communities or stormwater utility districts in the watershed. The City of Andersonville has two wells, each has a Source Water Assessment Plan. The basin is neither in nor part of a water supply watershed. Of the four jurisdictions affected, only Sumter County has permit issuing authority for land disturbing activity (erosion and sedimentation control ordinance), and all three counties enforce a Logging and Trucking Ordinance regulating the effects of forestry activities on local resources. There are not any watershed associations or Adopt-A-Stream groups in the watershed. No Section 319(h) grant projects are known to have been implemented or planned. Sweetwater Creek discharges into the Flint River.

To minimize erosion and stream sedimentation from forestry activities, the Georgia Forestry Commission's 7th District office has a specially trained Water Quality Coordinator to educate the forest community about, and promote the use of, forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs). Loggers and foresters are required by most major timber companies to attend 3-day Master Timber Harvesters' Program training which emphasizes use of forestry BMPs.

The District conducts monthly BMP Assurance examinations to provide "reasonable assurance" that forestry operations comply with BMPs. Active sites are identified through numerous means and inspected in an effort to educate landowners about BMPs, their responsibilities and liabilities concerning state water quality laws, and to provide on-the-ground assistance to loggers or operators before problems occur. No such examinations have occurred in this unit, however.

The GFC also monitors BMP implementation. The 7<sup>th</sup> District participated in the 4th statewide BMP implementation survey (2002) which collected data on 420 randomly selected sites where forestry activities had occurred within the previous two years. Of the 40,159 acres evaluated across the state, 99.1% were in compliance with BMPs. Of the 226 miles of stream evaluated on 287 sites, 94.2% of the mileage was in compliance with BMPs. As a result of the positive results of the Commission's aggressive program, EPA has identified silviculture as the lowest contribution source of nonpoint pollution. The Commission also investigates and mediates forestry water quality and wetland complaints.

The USDA Conservation Reserve Program reduces soil erosion, reduces sedimentation in streams and lakes, and otherwise improves water quality. It provides financial incentives to encourage farmers to convert erodible cropland and other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover. The basin has landowner participation in this program.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides assistance to eligible farmers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns. The program provides assistance complying with environmental laws, and encourages environmental enhancement. The purposes are achieved through implementation of a conservation plan supplemented with incentive payments to implement land management practices. Financial assistance is very limited, and directed more toward state priorities than local need. There is no such assistance currently in the watershed.

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# Sweetwater Creek COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING TABLES FOR AND NARRATIVES ABOUT EACH IMPAIRED STREAM IN THE WATERSHED.

STREAM SEGMENT NAME	LOCATION	MILES/AREA	DESIGNATED USE	PS/NS
Sweetwater Creek			Fishing	PS

#### III. SOURCES AND CAUSES OF STREAM SEGMENT IMPAIRMENT LISTED IN TMDLs

After reviewing the TMDLs written for this stream, complete the following tables with **the information found in the TMDLs**. List each parameter for which the stream segment is impaired and the water quality standard violated. See the instructions for the water quality standards. Describe the sources and causes of each violation identified in the TMDLs.

#### Table 2. SOURCES OF IMPAIRMENT AS INDICATED IN TMDLs

PARAMETER 1	WQ STANDARD	SOURCES OF IMPAIRMENT	NEEDED REDUCTION FROM TMDL
Biota (Sediment)	No degradation to fish community.	Sediment	24%

#### IV. IDENTIFICATION AND RANKING OF POTENTIAL SOURCES OR CAUSES OF IMPAIRMENT

INVESTIGATE AND EVALUATE the sources of impairment for each parameter listed in Table 2. Write a narrative describing efforts made or procedures used to verify the significance and extent of the sources or causes of each impairment listed in the TMDLs. Include:

- Involvement of stakeholder group
- Field surveys

- Review of land cover data

- Evaluation of sources

Macon and Sumter County tax records were researched to identify owners of properties contiguous to the impaired segment. These and "public" stakeholders received a written invitation (copy attached) to a stakeholder meeting to discuss the reported high sediment count, and possible cause(s) and corrective action(s) which might contribute to an improvement in water quality. TMDL background information was included in the invitation. A newspaper notice (The Citizen & Georgian) invited the general public to the same meeting.

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As stated in Section II, recent land use acreage distributions in the watershed have not been generated, but site visits and RDC staff and participating stakeholder familiarity with the watershed confirm the reasonable accuracy of the accompanying tabular data. Development in the watershed has been minimal.

In absence of any significant physical development, stakeholders were left to closely study aerial photography to identify possible contributing sources.

To the extent possible, identify sources and quantify the extent of pollution in the stream segment for each of the parameters listed in Table 2 and evaluate the likely impact on the parameter load to the stream. This should follow research performed and described in preceding narrative and should correct or add information to the TMDLs. The <u>SOURCES SHOULD BE RANKED</u> from those having the most impact to those having the least impact. The estimated extent of contribution can be expressed as the area of the watershed effected, the stream miles effected, or the number of activities contributing to the problem. The magnitude of contribution should be estimated to be large, moderate, small, or negligible.

Table 3. CONCLUSIONS MADE OF POTENTIAL SOURCES OF STREAM SEGMENT IMPAIRMENT

PARAMETER 1	POTENTIAL SOURCES	ESTIMATED EXTENT OF CONTRIBUTION	ESTIMATED MAGNITUDE OF CONTRIBUTION	COMMENTS
Biota (sediment)	Unpaved county roads	Entire stream segment	Moderate	Soil type and topography contribute to erosion
Biota (sediment)	"Flood of '94"	Entire stream segment	Moderate	Legacy sediment
Biota (sediment)	Silviculture	Entire stream segment	Moderate	Sandy soils
Biota (sediment)	Agriculture	Lower stream segment	Negligible	Sandy soils (limited agricultural activity)
Biota (sediment)	City park	Lower stream segment	Negligible	Exposed, erocible soils

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#### V. STAKEHOLDERS

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF STAKEHOLDERS is essential to the process of preparing TMDL implementation plans and improving water quality. Stakeholders can provide valuable information and data regarding their community, impaired water bodies, potential causes of impairments, and management practices and activities which may be employed to reduce the impacts of the causes of impairment.

Describe outreach activities to advise and engage stakeholders in the TMDL implementation plan preparation process. Describe the stakeholder group employed or formed to address the impaired segments in the watershed. Summarize the results of the number of attendees and meetings and describe major findings, recommendations, and approvals.

After issuing letters of invitation and newspaper publication of a notice of public meeting, a stakeholder meeting convened August 26, 2004, at Andersonville Town Hall to address the listing of Sweetwater Creek on the Federal 303(d) List for biota (sediment). Three property owners (see Table 4) and "public" stakeholders attended.

During the meeting the following related conditions and issues were discussed.

- East and west portions of watershed heavy in timber production; little recent harvest activity
- · Pasture on southern portion of watershed
- Relatively small amount of row-cropping in the watershed
- Mining activity (and associated land use) in watershed regulated by state; some strip mines have been reclaimed
- Silt-laden drainage ditches on Stage Coach/Old Stage Road (unpaved, steep slopes) discharge directly into Sweetwater
- Silt-laden drainage ditches on Burma Road (unpaved, steep slopes) discharge directly into Sweetwater
- Creek becomes red after heavy rain
- · Sandy soils complicate road maintenance
- · Current timber harvesting activity consists of thinning
- Flood of '94 at least one dam failed
- Exposed soils in pedestrian traffic area in Andersonville

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List the watershed or advisory committee members of the stakeholder group for this segment in the following table.

**Table 4. COMMITTEE MEMBERS** 

NAME/ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Paul V. Hall, CE Minerals/Mulcoa	P O Box 37	Andersonville	GA	31711	229-924-4461	
Brent McCarty, GFC	243 U. S. Hwy 19 North	Americus	GA	31709	229-931-2511	
Phil Porter, GFC	243 U. S. Hwy 19 North	Americus	GA	31709	229-931-2436	

In Appendix A, list the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses for local governments, agricultural or commercial forestry organizations, significant landholders, businesses and industries, and local organizations including environmental groups and individuals with a major interest in this watershed.

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#### **VI. MANAGEMENT MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES**

Describe any management measures or activities that have been put into place or will be put into place including regulatory or voluntary actions or other controls by governments or individuals that specifically apply to the pollutant that will help achieve water quality standards. Include who will be responsible for the measure, how it will be funded, the status, the date it will be or was initiated, and a short description of how effective the measure is or will be.

#### Table 5. MANAGEMENT MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES

#### **GENERAL MEASURES APPLICABLE TO ALL PARAMETERS**

MEASURE	RESPONSIBILITY	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE OF FUNDING	STATUS	ENACTED/ IMPLEMENTED	EFFECTIVENESS (Very, Moderate, Weak)
Federal Clean Water Act Section 404 (Ag and Forestry)	EPA (situations involving forestry are normally referred to GFC to determine compliance)	Requires agricultural and silvicultural practices to adhere to BMPs and 15 baseline provisions for road construction/maintenance in and across waters of the U.S. to be exempted from permitting process.	Farmers Timber Harvesters	Current	June 6, 1998	EPA identifies silviculture as the lowest contribution source of nonpoint pollution
Trucking and Logging Ordinance	Sumter County	Regulates silvicultural activity on county roadways, and in river corridors and wetlands.	Timber Harvesters	Current		EPA identifies silviculture as the lowest contribution source of nonpoint pollution
Trucking and Logging Ordinance	Macon County	Regulates silvicultural activity on county roadways, and in river corridors and wetlands.	Timber Harvesters	Current		EPA identifies silviculture as the lowest contribution source of nonpoint pollution
Trucking and Logging Ordinance	Schley County	Regulates silvicultural activity on county roadways, and in river corridors and wetlands.	Timber Harvesters	Current		EPA identifies silviculture as the lowest contribution source of nonpoint pollution
Memo to the Field: Application of BMPs to mechanical silvicultural site preparation activities for establishment of	EPA/ US Army Corps of Engineers - (cases normally referred to GFC for initial determination)	Identifies certain bottomland hardwood wetlands that should be subject to permitting if converting to pine plantations.	Landowner	Current	November 1995	

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pine plantations in SE. (Silviculture)						
GA Growth Planning Act (OCGA 12-2-8)	GA DNR, Department of Community Affairs, and local units of government	Authorized GA DNR to develop minimum planning standards local jurisdictions could adopt and enforce (river corridors, groundwater recharge areas, and wetlands) Silvicultural activities may be exempted from permitting provided activity complies with BMPs	Landowners Developers	Current	1991	
Georgia Forestry Commission Monthly BMP Assurance Examination	Georgia Forestry Commission (matters involving enforcement are generally referred to GA EPD)	To document "reasonable assurance" water quality will be proactively protected during silvicultural operations, GCF will offer monthly BMP assurance examination of active sites. Sites within watersheds of biota (sediment) impaired streams will be given priority for examination.	Georgia Forestry Commission	Current	1/1/03	EPA identifies silviculture as the lowest contribution source of nonpoint pollution
Georgia Water Quality Control Act (OCGA 12-5-20)	GA DNR EPD	Makes it unlawful to discharge excessive pollutants (sediments, nutrients, pesticides, animal waste, etc.) into waters of the State in amounts harmful to public health, safety, or welfare, or to animals, birds, or aquatic life or the physical destruction of stream habitats.	Developers	Current	1964	
Georgia's Best Management Practices	Georgia Forestry Commission (matters involving enforcement are generally referred to GA EPD)	Inform landowners, foresters, timber buyers, loggers, site preparation and reforestation contractors, et al, about commonsense, economical and effective practices to minimize nonpoint source & thermal pollution.	Timber Harvesters	Current	1989, 1997	EPA identifies silviculture as the lowest contribution source of nonpoint pollution
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	Farmers	Encourages farmers to convert highly erodible and other cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover.	Federal	Current		Very
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Farmers	Provides technical, educational, and financial assistance to eligible farmers to address soil, water and related natural resource concerns through a cost-share program to implement eligible structural or vegetative practices such as terraces, filter strips, tree planting and permanent wildlife habitat.	Federal Commodity Credit Corporation	Current		
Ordinance	Local Government	Review current E&S control	State, Local	Proposed		Changes are pro-

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Revisions	ordinance and modify as appropriate. Include certification program with requirements for pollution prevention at construction site through preparation of an Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control Plan to address trash, construction debris, leaking	Government		posed for state's erosion and sedi-ment control pro-gram. Channel protection and con-servation subdivision ordinances will provide further

guidelines for construction activity.

#### **MEASURES APPLICABLE TO INDIVIDUAL PARAMETERS**

vehicles, storage of chemicals, etc.

PARA- METER 1	MEASURE	RESPONSIBILITY	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE OF FUNDING	STATUS	ENACTED/ IMPLEMENT- ED	EFFECTIVENESS (Very, Moderate, Weak)
Biota (Sediment)	Road maintenance	Sumter County	Proper maintenance of unpaved roads for erosion control	Local	Continuous		Moderate
Biota (Sediment)	Silviculture BMPs	Timber Harvesters	Extra precaution needed because of sandy soils	Local	Continuous		Moderate
Biota (Sediment)	Agriculture BMPs	Farmers	Reduce erosion resulting from agricultural land disturbing activity	Local	Continuous		Weak (small affected area)

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#### VII. MONITORING PLAN

The purposes of monitoring are to obtain more data, to determine the sources of pollution, to describe baseline conditions, and to evaluate the effects of management and activities on water quality. Describe any sampling activities or other surveys - active, planned or proposed - and their intended purpose. Reference the development and submission of a Sample Quality and Assurance Plan (SQAP) if monitoring for delisting purposes.

Table 6. MONITORING PLAN

PARAMETER(S) TO BE	ORGANIZATION	STATUS (CURRENT, PROPOSED,	TIME FRAME		PURPOSE (If for delisting, date of SQAP
MONITORED		PLANNED)	START	END	submission)
Biota (Sediment)	Georgia DNR-EPD	Planned	2005	2005	Flint River Basin Planning – evaluate the effects of management and activities on water quality
Biota (Sediment)	Georgia DNR-EPD	Planned	2010	2010	Flint River Basin Planning – evaluate the effects of management and activities on water quality

#### VIII. PLANNED OUTREACH FOR IMPLEMENTATION

List and describe outreach activities which will be conducted to support this plan and the implementation of it.

Table 7. PLANNED OUTREACH

RESPONSIBILTY	DESCRIPTION	AUDIENCE	DATE
Georgia Forestry	Monthly BMP Assurance Examination	Timber Harvesters	Continuous
Commission	(biota impaired streams will be given priority)		
Extension Service, Natural	Stress importance of implementing agriculture	Farmers	Continuous
Resources Conservation	BMPs		
Service			

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#### IX. MILESTONES/ MEASURES OF PROGESS OF BMPs AND OUTREACH

This table will be used to track and report progress of management measures including BMPs and outreach. Record milestone dates for:

- accomplishment of management practices or activities outreach activities
- installation of BMPs

to attain water quality standards. Comment on the effectiveness of the management measure, how much support the measure was given by the community, what was learned, how the measure might be improved in the future, and any other observations made. This table can be "pulled out" of this template and used to report and track progress.

Table 8. MILESTONES

MANAGEMENT MEASURE	RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS	STA PROPOSED	TUS INSTALLED	COMMENT
Review unpaved road	Sumter County	2005-07		
maintenance practices, modify as				
necessary				
Surface Mining Land Use Plan	Mulcoa	Continuous		
(reclamation - legacy sediment)				
Monthly BMP Assurance	Georgia Forestry	Continuous		
Examination (biota impaired	Commission			
streams will be given priority)				
Implementation of agriculture	Extension Service, Natural	Continuous		
BMPs in watershed - Sumter	Resources Conservation			
	Service, Farmers			
Review options to reduce erosion	City of Andersonville	2005-2006		
from exposed soils in tourist site				

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Prepared By:	Gerald N	⁄lixon					
Agency:	Middle F	lint RDC					
Address:	228 Wes	t Lamar Street					
City:	Americus	s ST	: GA	ZIP:	31709		
E-mail:	gmixon@	middleflintrdc.org	J	<del></del>			
Date Submitte	d to EPD:	December 20	04			Revision: 0	

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## APPENDIX A. STAKEHOLDERS

List the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses for local governments, agricultural or commercial forestry organizations, significant landholders, businesses and industries, and local organizations including environmental groups and individuals with a major interest in this watershed.

NAME/ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Wilder Lands, Inc	107 Register Street	Montezuma	GA	31063		
Webb Farms, Inc.	Route 1, Box 26	Oglethorpe	GA	31068		
Elton & Kath A Sharp	P O Box 228	Leslie	GA	31764		
William J Kennedy, III	102 Masondale Avenue	Durham	NC	27707		
Mullite Company of	P O Box 37	Andersonville	GA	31711		
America						
Thomas Farms, Inc	P O Box 1366	Americus	GA	31709		
Clay Products, Inc	28601 Chagrin Blvd, Suite 450	Cleveland	ОН	44122		
Andersonville National Historic Site	496 Cemetery Road	Andersonville	GA	31711		
Dock N English Estate C/O Oscar English	Route 1	Andersonville	GA	31711		
Ralph K Frazier, Trustee	2433 Brookwood Drive	Columbus	ОН	43209-2817		
Howard T Kitchens	120 North Tamie Circle	Kathleen	GA	31047		
Scotty Palmer, District	128 Federal Building, Room	Americus	GA	31709		
Conservationist	211, 128 East Forsyth Street					
Mr. Frank A Latimore	P O Box 1027	Americus	GA	31709		
Sumter County						
Extension Service						
Sumter County Farm	P O Box 1104	Americus	GA	31709		
Bureau						
Tift Pace, Chairman	P O Box 295	Americus	GA	31709		
Sumter County Board of						
Commissioners						
Phil Porter, District	243 U S Highway North	Americus	GA	31709		
Forester, GFC						

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Kathy Mitcham Sumter County Health Department	208 Rucker Street	Americus	GA	31709	
Russell Toning, District Soil Conservation Svc	2700 Palmyra Road	Albany	GA	31707	
Susan Reyher Regional Health Dept. – Environmental Health	222 Pine Avenue, Room 420	Albany	GA	31701	
Margaret Holloway, Mayor, City of Andersonville	P O Box 35	Andersonville	GA	31711	
Andy Page, USDA Service Center	733 Carroll Street	Perry	GA	31069	
Jeremy Kickler, Macon County Extension Service	P O Box 486	Oglethorpe	GA	31068	
Glen Chase, President, Macon County Farm Bureau	P O Box 971	Oglethorpe	GA	31068	
Charles W. Allen, Chairman, Macon County Board of Comm.	P O Box 297	Oglethorpe	GA	31068	
Macon County Health Department	P O Box 729	Oglethorpe	GA	31068	
Carl Lowell, Macon County Forestry Unit	P O Box 669	Oglethorpe	GA	31608	
Janet Moehle Georgia Conservancy	18 North Main Street	Moultrie	GA	31768	

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#### **APPENDIX B.**

#### **UPDATES TO THIS PLAN**

Describe any updates made to this plan. Include the date, section or table updated, and a summary of what was changed and why.

Soil type contributes to erosion



Old Stage(Coach) Road turnout



Burma Road(way) and bank erosion

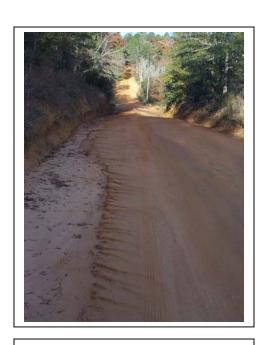


Burma Road erosion and turnout

### SWEETWATER CREEK



Uncovered traffic area



Burma Rd sediment, distant turnout